

INSIDE TODAY
WORLD NEWS

THAI-LEVISION



An anti-government protester and supporter of ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra watches a live television of the negotiation between the government led by Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and the protesters' leaders Sunday, March 28, 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

BAY DELAY



Ernie Els, of South Africa, lines up his putt on the second hole during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 28, 2010.

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President Barack Obama rallies troops at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

Obama slips into Afghanistan to voice U.S. resolve

JENNIFER LOVEN

AP White House Correspondent

KABUL (AP) — Under elaborate secrecy, President Barack Obama slipped into Afghanistan on Sunday near the front lines of the increasingly bloody 8-year-old war he is expanding and affirmed America's commitment to destroying al-Qaida and its extremist allies in the land where the 9-11 plot was hatched. Obama's six-hour visit was conducted entirely under the shroud of nightfall, after Air Force One's unannounced flight from the U.S. Obama defended his decision to escalate the fight, telling troops whose numbers he is tripling that their victory is imperative to America's safety. His bid to shore up faith in the struggle was aimed both at the troops who cheered him and Americans back home. And, he demanded accountability from Afghan authorities to make good on repeated promises to improve living conditions, rein in corruption and enforce the rule of law to prevent people from joining the

insurgency.

"Your services are absolutely necessary, absolutely essential to America's safety and security," the president told a lively crowd of about 2,500 troops and civilians at Bagram Air Field north of Kabul. "Those folks back home are relying on you. We can't forget why we're here." It was Obama's first trip as president to Afghanistan, where the number of U.S. troops killed has roughly doubled in the first three months of 2010 compared with the same period last year as Washington has added tens of thousands of additional soldiers to reverse the Taliban's momentum.

"We did not choose this war," Obama reminded the troops, recalling the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and warning that al-Qaida was still using the region to plan terrorist strikes against the U.S. and its allies. "We are going to disrupt and dismantle, defeat and destroy al-Qaida and its extremist allies."

Continued on Page 6

ANALYSIS: It's the economy again come Election Day

DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

An AP News Analysis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Losers in a brutal struggle with President Barack Obama, Republicans now hope voter anger over newly enacted health care legislation will propel them to victory in the November election when control of Congress will be at stake.

Forget about it.

No matter the impact of health care, the economy still matters most — unemployment in particular — in a country struggling to emerge from the deepest recession in decades. In poll after poll, it isn't even close.

A CBS/New York Times poll taken last month, when the health care debate was in a lull, showed 52 percent of those surveyed identified the economy as their top priority. Health care was a distant second at 13 percent.

The gap closed somewhat this month as Obama and the Democratic-controlled Congress put more of a focus on the legislation, but not by enough to upend the public's order of priorities. A CNN/Opinion research survey in mid-March showed the economy was the top issue, at 43 percent of those polled, with health care at 23 percent.

"There is still one number that matters most on Election Day, and that is the unemployment number," said David Winston, a Republican pollster.

Continued on Page 4

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NY archbishop defends pope against sex abuse furor



Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan speaks during Palm Sunday Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, Sunday March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

LARRY NEUMEISTER
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Archbishop Timothy Dolan was greeted with applause after finishing Palm Sunday Mass by defending Pope Benedict XVI against suggestions he aided cover-ups of reports of child abuse. The standing-room-only

crowd at St. Patrick's Cathedral applauded for 20 seconds after Dolan read a statement calling the pope the "leader in purification, reform and renewal that the church so very much needs." Still, Dolan said reports of abuse of minors by some priests in Ireland and Germany and the retelling of the abuse

of children by a priest in Wisconsin had "knocked us to our knees once again" and intensified the somberness of Holy Week, the most sacred time on the Christian calendar.

The leader of the second-largest U.S. diocese urged the Manhattan congregation to pray for the pope, saying he was suffering some of the same unjust accusations once faced by Jesus.

"Anytime this horror, this vicious sin, this nauseating crime is reported, as it needs to be, victims and their families are wounded again, the vast majority of faithful priests bow their heads in shame anew and sincere Catholics like you experience another dose of shock, sorrow and even anger," Dolan said.

He added: "What deepens the sadness now is the unrelenting insinuations against the Holy Father himself, as certain sources seem almost frenzied to implicate the man."

In Vatican City, the pope in

his Palm Sunday homily made no direct mention of the abuse scandal, which has drawn fresh attention to the church's handling of cases of pedophile priests.

Dolan in his homily also didn't mention the scandal, but a church spokesman alerted reporters in the crowd that he would make a statement at the end of the Mass, which lasted more than an hour.

Dolan credited the pope for making possible the progress the Catholic Church has made in the United States against "this sickening sin and crime," saying changes "could never have happened without the insistence and support of the very man now being daily crowned with thorns by groundless innuendo."

He asked whether the church and the pope "need intense scrutiny and just criticism for tragic horrors long past?"

"Yes! Yes!" he said, answering his question. "He himself has asked for it, encouraging complete honesty, at the same

time eloquently expressing contrition and urging a thorough cleansing.

"All we ask is that it be fair and that the Catholic Church not be singled out for a horror that has cursed every culture, religion, organization, institution, school, agency and family in the world," he said. Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter, marks Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the laying of palm fronds before him. Outside the cathedral Sunday, worshippers emerging from the service with palm fronds were largely supportive of Dolan's remarks.

"I thought it was very well put," said Inga Yungwirth, of Hagerstown, Maryland. "It doesn't shake my faith." Earlier, several protesters had gathered outside the Gothic-style cathedral, which sits on Fifth Avenue opposite Rockefeller Center.

"Honk if Pope should resign," said one sign, which attracted only an occasional toot from drivers. □

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Official: Gun charges after FBI raids in U.S.

MIKE HOUSEHOLDER

Associated Press Writer

ADRIAN, Mich. (AP) — The FBI said Sunday that agents conducted weekend raids in three states and arrested at least three people, and a militia leader in Michigan said the target of at least one of the raids was a Christian militia group.

The FBI said the raids took place in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. Federal warrants were sealed, but a federal law enforcement official speaking on condition of anonymity said some of those arrested face gun charges and officials are pursuing other suspects.

FBI spokeswoman Sandra Berchtold said there had been activity in two southeast Michigan counties near the Ohio state line. She wouldn't say whether they were tied to the raids in the other states.

FBI spokesman Scott Wilson said agents arrested two people Saturday after raids in two towns in Ohio. A third arrest was made in northeast Illinois on Sunday, a day after a raid took place just over the border in northwest Indiana.

George Ponce, 18, who works at a pizzeria next door to a home raided in Hammond, Indiana, said he and a few co-workers stepped outside for a break Saturday night and saw a swarm of law enforcement.

"I heard a yell, 'Get back inside!' and saw a squad member pointing a rifle at us," Ponce said. "They told us the bomb squad was going in, sweeping the house looking for bombs."

He said another agent was in the bushes near the house, and law enforcement vehicles were "all over." He estimated that agents took more than two dozen guns from the house.

Michael Lackomar, a spokesman for the Southeast Michigan Volunteer Militia, said one of his team leaders got a frantic phone call Saturday evening from members of Hutaree, a Christian militia group, who said their property in southwest Michigan was being raided by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

"They said they were under attack by the ATF and wanted a place to hide," Lackomar said. "My team leader said, 'no thanks.' " The team leader was cooperating with the FBI on Sunday, Lackomar said. He said SMVM wasn't affiliated with Hutaree, which states on its Web site to be "prepared

to defend all those who belong to Christ and save those who aren't."

"We believe that one day, as prophecy says, there will be an Anti-Christ," the group's Web site said. "Jesus wanted us to be ready to defend ourselves using the sword and stay alive using equipment."

An e-mail sent to the group by The Associated Press wasn't returned Sunday, and phone numbers for the group's leadership were not immediately available. Berchtold, the FBI spokeswoman in Michigan, said she couldn't confirm if the raids were connected to Hutaree.

Lackomar said none of the raids focused on his group. Lackomar said about eight to 10 members of Hutaree trained with SMVM twice in the past three years. SMVM holds monthly training sessions focusing on survival training and shooting practice, Lackomar said.

In Michigan, police swarmed a rural, wooded property around 7 p.m. Saturday outside Adrian, about 70 miles southwest of Detroit, said Evelyn Reitz, who lives about a half-mile away. She said several police cars, with lights flashing, were still there Sunday evening and 15 to 20 officers were stationed in the area.

Neighbor Jane Cattell said she came home from the movies Saturday night and a helicopter was circling above, its spotlight illuminating her house. She and her sister, Sarah Holtz, wouldn't say who lived in the home but said they knew them from riding their horses past their house.

"They're your average, nice neighbors," Holtz said. There were rumors about ties to a militia, but Holtz she knew nothing of that from her interaction with them.

One of the raids in Ohio occurred at Bayshore Estates, a trailer park in Sandusky, a small city on Lake Erie between Toledo and Cleveland, park manager Terry Mills said. Authorities blocked off the street for about an hour Saturday night, he said.

"Needless to say, this has everyone talking," said Mills, 62. "We have a lot of retirees here who don't want all this commotion." Mills said he didn't know the identity of the person arrested.

FBI agents in Ohio also made an arrest in Huron on Saturday night, Wilson said. No further information would be released until after they appeared in court Monday, he said. □



A Michigan State Police officer guards a road block on Tomer Street after a FBI of raid of a suspected militia leader's home in Clayton, Mich., Sunday, March 28, 2010. The FBI said Sunday that agents conducted weekend raids in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio and arrested at least three people.

Associated Press

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In this Jan. 26, 2010, file photo job seekers line up to register at a City of Miami job fair in Miami. In the fall election campaign economic issues will trump even health care; the economy still matters most, unemployment in particular, in a country struggling to emerge from the deepest recession in decades.

Associated Press

ELECTION DAY

Continued from Front Page

"If unemployment is where it is now (9.7 percent nationally), people are going to be very unhappy and looking for a

change.

"If it were to get to 8 percent, that would get a different result," he added.

For all the recent focus on health care, this is hardly news

to Obama, his aides or other Democrats who anxiously scan economic statistics for signs of job growth that have yet to materialize.

"Starting hopefully in early April, you're going to see job growth, not job negative," said Sen. Bob Menendez of New Jersey, the head of the Democratic senatorial campaign effort.

It's a Democratic hope that has only grown stronger since January, when Republicans captured the Senate seat that the late Massachusetts Sen. Edward M. Kennedy had held for nearly a half-century.

Underscoring their eagerness to switch issues, a few House Democrats held a news conference before Congress began its vacation at week's end to say they were looking forward to working on economic concerns when they returned. It's also likely that both parties will try to connect the economy and health care in the minds of the voters heading into the fall campaign.

"Americans are asking, 'Where are the jobs?' but Democrats remain focused on this job-killing government takeover of health care," House Republican leader John Boehner of Ohio said as

Obama's allies were pushing their legislation through Congress.

Democrats emphasized a Congressional Budget Office estimate that the legislation could cut the federal deficit.

"This is ... one of the biggest deficit reduction measures in history — over \$1.3 trillion (over 20 years) that will help put us on the path of fiscal responsibility," Obama told House Democrats days before they passed the measure.

Not that the steadfastly partisan struggle over health care won't matter in this year's election campaign.

Within hours of the legislation's passage, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said his party would campaign to "repeal and replace" Obama's prized accomplishment.

The first half of that pledge is a Republican fantasy as long as Obama is in the White House, as Republican leaders surely understand. Coming up with an alternative that his party can unify behind in the election campaign may or may not prove possible, or even politically desirable.

But no matter.

A Washington Post poll released Sunday reported

that half of those surveyed oppose the changes included in the legislation. Among that group, 86 percent favor an effort to cancel them, either in Congress or the courts.

In political terms, the new mantra seems designed to appeal to two Republican target groups:

—the anti-government tea party activists, who staged sometimes unruly demonstrations outside the Capitol a week ago and want simply to rip out the new law before it can take root.

—swing voters who want improvements made to the existing health care system, but fear that the president and Democrats went too far.

Democrats argue — hope, really — that lagging support for the health care legislation is the result of months of Republican distortions as far back as last summer's debunked charges that "death panels" would decide the fate of elderly people covered by the government-run Medicare program.

Now Democrats hope they can argue successfully that they can govern effectively, and they are promoting a series of highly popular changes that will take effect in the next six months. Small businesses will be eligible for tax credits to help them cover the cost of insurance for employees, Obama said in Iowa a few days ago, and older people with high drug costs will receive a \$250 rebate from the government.

"This year, insurance companies will no longer be able to drop people's coverage when they get sick, or place lifetime limits or restrictive annual limits on the amount of care they can receive," the president added.

"This is the reform that some folks in Washington are still hollering about. And now that it's passed, they're already promising to repeal it. ... Well, I say go for it." □

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Many felony pot cases tossed out of Calif. courts

PAUL ELIAS

Associated Press Writer

SAN FRANCISCO – Police in a northern California town thought they had an open-and-shut case when they seized more than two pounds of marijuana from a couple's home, even though doctors authorized the pair to use pot for medical purposes.

San Francisco police thought the same with a father and son team they suspected of abusing the state's medical marijuana law by allegedly operating an illegal trafficking operation.

But both cases were tossed out along with many other marijuana possession cases in recent weeks because of a California Supreme Court ruling that has police, prosecutors and defense attorneys scrambling to make sense of a gray legal area: What is the maximum amount of cannabis a medical marijuana patient can possess?

No one can say for sure how many dismissals and acquittals have been prompted by the ruling, but the numbers are stacking up since the Supreme Court on Jan. 21 tossed out Patrick Kelly's marijuana possession conviction.

The high court struck down a 7-year-old state law that imposed an 8-ounce limit on the amount of pot medical users of marijuana could possess. The court said patients are entitled to a "reasonable" amount of the drug to treat their ailments.

Law enforcement officials say the ruling has made the murky legal landscape of marijuana policy in California even more challenging to enforce.

Since California voters

legalized medical marijuana in 1996, there has been tension between local law enforcement officials and federal authorities, who view marijuana as absolutely illegal.

That tension is expected to become even more pronounced if the state's voters approve a November ballot measure legalizing possession of small amounts of marijuana.

"The way the law is now it puts law enforcement between a rock and a hard place," said Martin J. Mayer, a lawyer who represents California State Sheriff's Association, California Police Chief's Association and California Peace Officers' Association. "The measure, if it passes, will make it even more difficult. They just don't like being in the middle."

Prosecutors are backing away from some cases filed before the court ruling.

"Gray is not a good color for the law," said Shasta County District Attorney Gerald Benito, who dismissed a case earlier this month and is considering dropping several more because of the ruling. "It makes it very difficult for us to enforce the law — I think everyone is crying out for a clear line."

Benito cited the Supreme Court ruling in dropping charges on March 5 against James Bradley Hall, who was arrested in October and charged with growing 40 marijuana plants.

The next week, a San Francisco jury acquitted a father and son charged with growing three dozen plants. The lawyers for Thomas Chang, 62, and his

son, Errol Chang, 30, based their defense on the Kelly case, arguing that the men needed that much pot to treat their medical conditions.

In Vacaville, located between San Francisco and Sacramento, prosecutors in February dropped their two-year pursuit of Johanna and Joe Azevedo, a husband and wife charged with possessing about two pounds of marijuana.

Both sides agreed to put the Azevedo case on hold until the Supreme Court decided the Kelly case.

"Fighting this pretty well drained what little money we had," Johanna Azevedo said of her legal fight with Solano County prosecutors. "But it was a very happy day when the Kelly case was announced."

Still, not all defense attorneys and marijuana advocates are as content with the ruling as the Azevedos and others who had their criminal cases dropped.

Some argue that clear-cut limits actually would shield medical marijuana patients from law enforcement officials who have a strict interpretation of what constitutes a "reasonable" amount.

"I wish there was a bright line," said Bruce Margolin, one of the nation's most renowned marijuana defense attorneys. "It's the only protection against arrest."

A closely-watched Sacramento case was expected to help clarify what a reasonable amount of medical marijuana is. But it further muddled the question.

The jury acquitted Matthew Zugsberger of a felony possession charge but convicted him of a felony



In this March 25, 2010 photo, Johanna Azevedo poses with her legal papers, medical marijuana identification cards and cookbook at her office in Vacaville, Calif. Azevedo, who was arrested along with her husband for growing marijuana plants in her backyard, had the charges dropped last month because of a recent California Supreme Court ruling that struck down limits on how much medical marijuana growers could possess.

Associated Press

charge of marijuana which deliberated for more than three days, also convicted Zugsberger of a misdemeanor possession charge. In the end, nothing was solved. □

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U.S. President Barack Obama, left, meets Afghan President Hamid Karzai, right, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, March 28, 2010. Obama told Afghan leaders on Sunday to do more to rein in rampant corruption and improve their government as he made an unannounced visit to the capital for a firsthand look at the 8-year-old war he inherited and dramatically escalated.

Associated Press

AFGHANISTAN - US

Continued from Front Page


Obama had gone Friday afternoon to the presidential retreat at Camp David in Maryland, from which unnoticed departures are easier because of its secluded mountain location. The small contingent of White House

aides and media brought on the trip were sworn to secrecy. Obama arrived in Kabul just two days after a threatening new audio message from al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, believed to be hiding along the ungoverned border between Afghanistan and Pakistan. "I thought I'd come

over and say hello," Obama told the troops in a jaunty remark that set the stage for stark reminders of the terrorist threat that rose from this soil. "If this region slides backwards," Obama told the troops, "if the Taliban retakes this country, al-Qaida can operate with impunity, then more American lives will be at stake, the Afghan people will lose their opportunity for progress and prosperity and the world will be significantly less secure. As long as I'm your commander in chief, I'm not going to let that happen." That resolve was meant just as surely for stateside citizens as for the people who heard it face to face. Polls find that Americans are divided on the war if, more recently, favorable to Obama's handling of it. Obama's dark suit was soiled with dust when he stepped off his helicopter at the presidential palace in Kabul. White House officials said Obama, in private talks, wanted to drive home the point that Afghan President Hamid Karzai and his Cabinet must do more to

battle corruption and cronyism in government. Karzai "needs to be seized with how important that is," said Jim Jones, Obama's national security adviser. Karzai has raised eyebrows in Washington with recent trips to Iran, China and Pakistan and his welcoming Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad to Kabul this month. In public remarks, Obama told Karzai and his Cabinet that he was pleased with progress made since their last discussion by secure videoconference on March 15. Obama invited him to visit Washington on May 12. He also praised recent steps in the military campaign against insurgents. But he stressed that Afghans need to see conditions on the ground get better. "Progress will continue to be made ... but we also want to continue make progress on the civilian front," Obama said, referring to anti-corruption efforts, good governance and adherence to the rule of law. "All of these things end up resulting in an Afghanistan that is more

prosperous and more secure." Karzai promised that his country "would move forward into the future" to eventually take over its own security, and he thanked Obama for the American intervention in his country. He told Obama he has begun to establish more credible national institutions on corruption and made clear he intends to make ministerial appointments more representative of the multiple ethnic and geographic regions of the country, according to a U.S. account of the meeting. The White House insisted that Karzai's Cabinet participate in most of the meetings with Obama. The Cabinet includes a number of ministers favored by the U.S., including the heads of finance, interior and defense, whom the Obama administration wants to empower as a way of reducing the influence of presidential cronies. Some talented Afghan administrators have complained that Karzai marginalized them in an attempt to solidify his powers.



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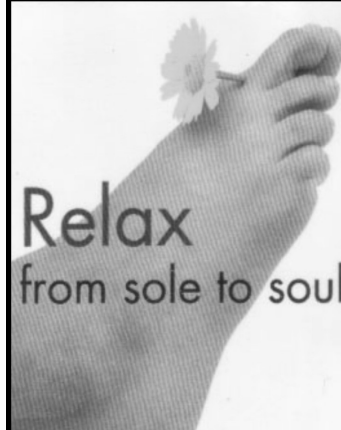


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Bomb explodes in Greece, killing 1, injuring child

DEMETRIS NELLAS

Associated Press Writer

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A bomb exploded in a residential neighborhood in central Athens late Sunday, killing a 15-year-old Afghan boy and wounding his 45-year-old mother and 10-year-old sister, authorities said.

The bomb exploded at 10:40 p.m. local time Sunday, police said. The boy's sister was transported to a children's hospital with slight burns on her the face and hands and bruising. Her mother, who was in a state of shock, was also slightly injured. She was taken to a different hospital. "We do not know yet about the motive or the intended target. All I can tell you, from what the mother told the police, is that the victim was her 15-year-old son," police spokesman Athanasios Kokalakis told The Associated Press. He said the family is from Afghanistan. The Civil Protection ministry later released a statement saying the boy stumbled upon a bag in a garbage bin that contained the bomb.

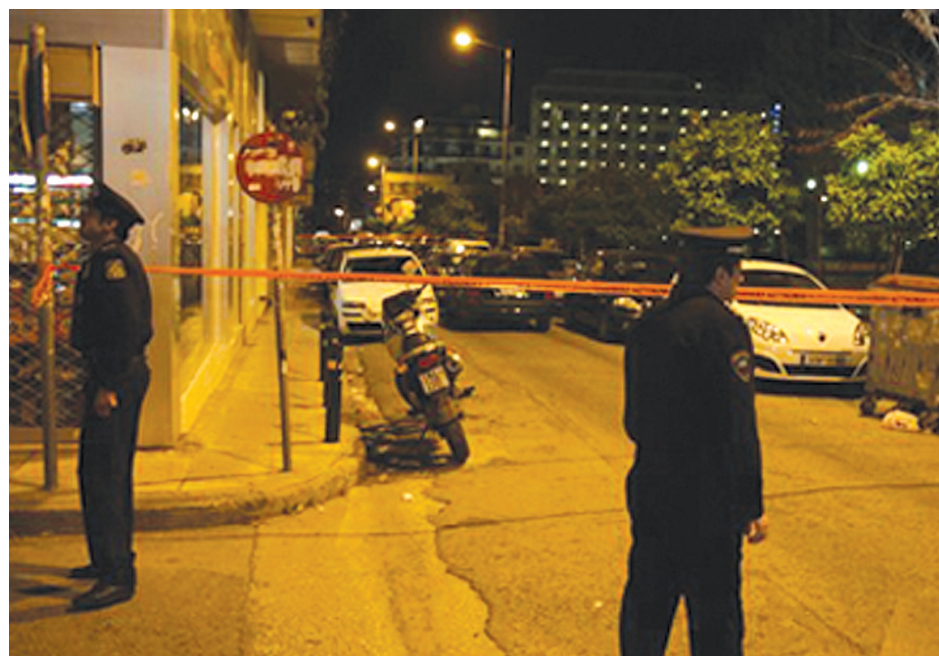
Police cordoned off the street and were searching the area. Television footage showed an ambulance leaving the scene of the blast. The victim's body is still on the scene of the explosion pending the arrival of a coroner.

"The perpetrators ... consider all of us as their enemies. We will find them soon," said Civil Protection Minister Michalis Chryssochoidis, who rushed to the scene.

The bomb exploded outside the headquarters of the Hellenic Management Association, a private not-for-profit organization, Kokalakis said, but he said it was not clear whether this was the intended target. Radical left-wing and anarchist groups often carry out bombings in Athens, but most are on a small scale and cause no injuries.

However, some groups have been escalating attacks of late.

Last week, three bombings targeted the offices of an ultra right-wing party, a police immigration center and a Pakistani immigrant leader's home. The three attacks, none of which

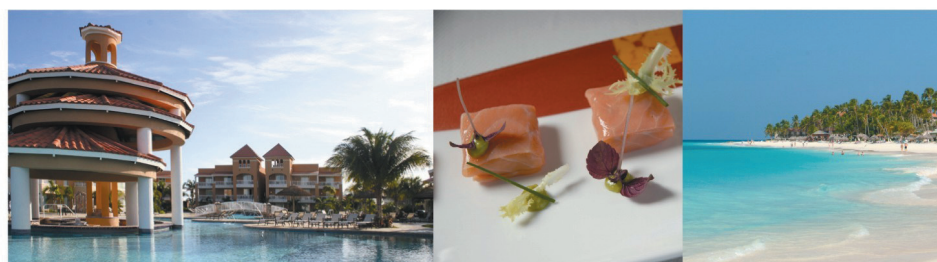


Police officers are seen after a bomb exploded in Athens, on Monday, March 29, 2010. A bomb exploded in the central district of Patissia late Sunday, killing one person and wounding a child, authorities said. The bomb exploded shortly before midnight Sunday, and had not been preceded by any warning call, police said. One man was killed in the blast, while a girl aged about 10 who had been passing by with her mother was lightly wounded.

Associated Press

caused any injuries, were claimed by the Conspiracy Nuclei of Fire group, which said it wanted to highlight the issue of racism in Greece.

The group also claimed responsibility for a Jan. 9 bomb outside Greece's Parliament building, causing no injuries. □



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Live on TV: Thai PM vs. anti-govt. protesters

JOCELYN GECKER

Associated Press Writer

BANGKOK (AP) —

Thailand's prime minister met his political opponents on live television Sunday to

try to defuse a crisis that has produced huge demonstrations and sent him fleeing to live at an army base, but the protest leaders said new elections are the only answer.



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Photo by Diane Keijzer



Thailand's Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, second right, Chamni Sakdiset, Democrat Party deputy secretary-general, far right, and Kobsak Sabhavas, secretary of prime minister's office, third right, shake hands with anti-government leaders Weng Tojirakarn, from left, Veera Muksikapong and Jatuporn Prompan during their negotiation to find a way to restore peace and minimize the chance of violence in Bangkok, Thailand, Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

Viewers across the nation watched three men in red and three in blue — the "Red Shirt" protest leaders, Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and two advisers — shake hands with strained smiles across a conference table before reiterating their sharply different stances. More talks were set for Monday, but Sunday's three-hour meeting offered little reason to believe any agreement could be reached.

"Our request is simple and direct. We would like Parliament dissolved to return power to the people, so they can make their decision," said Veera Muksikapong, one of the protest leaders.

Abhisit has repeatedly rejected the protesters' demands that he dissolve Parliament, arguing that calling new elections will not fix Thailand's deep political problems.

"The wound in this country cannot be healed by dissolving Parliament," Abhisit said. "I have to make a decision based on a consensus from the entire country, including the Red Shirts."

"If I dissolve Parliament, what color shirts will spring up next?" he asked.

The talks were a relatively calm moment after more than two weeks of protests that have drawn more than 100,000 people to peaceful but increasingly confrontational rallies against a government that demonstrators consider illegitimate. The protests have raised concerns of violence and prompted travel warnings from three dozen countries.

"Can we bring a pleasant atmosphere back to the country?" Vejjajiva asked during the talks, which included tension, some laughter, a few jokes and a

plea from the protesters to take a bathroom break after two hours.

Abhisit has been sleeping and working at an army base outside Bangkok since the protests started March 12. He had initially refused protesters' demands for talks on live television but abruptly reversed course Sunday "to restore peace and minimize the chance of violence," his office said. He met protest leaders at an academic institute in a Bangkok suburb.

The talks were broadcast on a giant screen at the main protest site, in the historic heart of Bangkok, where thousands of red-shirted protesters watched and waited for direction from their leaders.

"For now, we are not going to mobilize any more red shirts," protest leader Jatuporn Prompan said as he exited the talks. "But we hope that tomorrow we get a clearer picture."

Sunday's talks gave the Red Shirt leaders new legitimacy but offered a face-saving situation for both sides, analysts said.

"The prime minister has defused the tension quite nicely," said Somchai Pagapasvivat, political science professor at Bangkok's Thammasat University.

"The meeting today and tomorrow won't achieve anything concrete. But it's a truce. It's a temporary win-win situation for both sides," he said. □

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Colombia's FARC rebels release captive soldier

CESAR GARCIA,
Associated Press Writer
VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia (AP) — Colombian rebels handed over a 23-year-old soldier to the International Red Cross on Sunday in their first release of a captive in more than a year.

Pvt. Josue Calvo had been held since last April. He walked out of a loaned Brazilian helicopter emblazoned with the Red Cross logo and into the long embrace of his father and sister after being picked up in the jungle and flown to this provincial capital at the eastern foot of the Andes.

"Joy came home again," the father, Luis Alberto Calvo, said. Although the rebels had reported him suffering from an undisclosed illness and not ambulatory, Calvo did not use the wheelchair that awaited him. He walked on his own, with the aid of a staff. But he did not speak — only giving a thumbs up — at a news conference at which his father explained that

Calvo's mother had abandoned the family when Josue was a boy.

Afterward, the soldier and his family were flown in a military plane to the capital, Bogota, where Calvo was to undergo tests at the Military Hospital.

Calvo is the first of two soldiers the leftist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, says it is freeing this week in what the insurgents call their last goodwill unilateral release. The other is Sgt. Pablo Emilio Moncayo, who has been held for more than 12 of his 32 years and whose father gained fame for walking halfway across Colombia to press for his release.

Piedad Cordoba, the opposition senator who led the rescue mission, said Calvo was emotional and lightheaded during the flight from the village of Santa Lucia, where rebels handed him over.

Peace commissioner Frank Pearl told reporters that Calvo decided not to make any statements to

the media and would be taken to a military hospital in the capital, Bogota.

"YES, PEACE IS POSSIBLE, IT'S IRREVERSIBLE," Cordoba said in the play-by-play of the release that she has been running on her Twitter feed.

The FARC says it will now demand a swap of jailed rebels in exchange for the 20 police and soldiers it still holds, most for more than a decade.

President Alvaro Uribe, who steps down in August after two consecutive four-year terms, is hugely popular in Colombia for aggressively fighting the FARC and dealing it crushing blows, including the 2008 rescue of former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, three U.S. military contractors and eleven other captives.

Uribe has called the FARC's unilateral releases cynical publicity stunts that belie their disregard for civilian life. Colombia's armed forces chief says he believes the FARC



Colombia's soldier Josue Daniel Calvo, right, gestures as he walks with his sister Nubia after arriving to the Vanguardia airport in Villavicencio, Colombia, Sunday, March 28, 2010. Calvo, who was taken hostage on April 20, 2009, was released Sunday by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC.

Associated Press

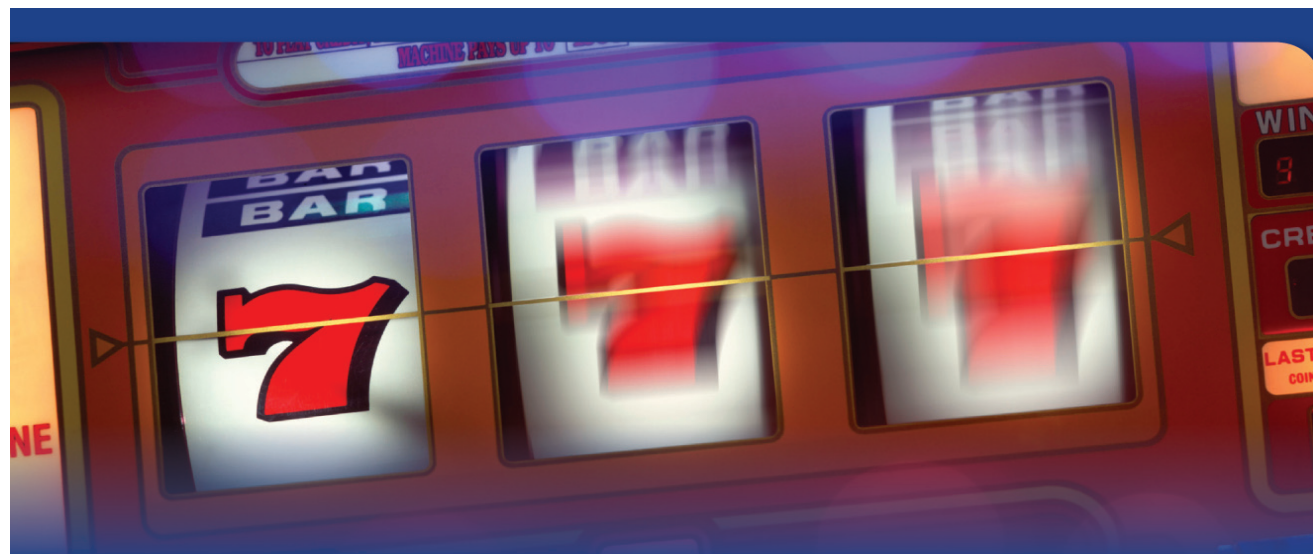
is behind a bombing in the administrative center of the Pacific port of Buenaventura on Wednesday that killed nine people. Analysts said they expected no movement on a possible prisoner swap until a new president takes office Aug. 7 after elections, the first round of which are set for May 30.

Los Andes University political scientist Sandra Borda noted that none of the presidential candidates have said they are disposed to negotiate with the FARC, which is "weakened

but far from being defeated militarily."

Calvo is the first FARC captive to be released since February 2009, when the guerrillas handed over two politicians, three police officers and a soldier.

The two Super Cougar choppers loaned by Brazil with a total of 20 military crew members were to fly Monday to Florencia, capital of the southern province of Caqueta, said International Red Cross spokesman Adolfo Beteta. □



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Lautner, Miley Cyrus win Kids' Choice Awards



Actors Tina Fey and Steve Carell are slimed at the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards in Los Angeles March 27, 2010.

REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

By **DERRIK J. LANG**,
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES – Team Jacob was triumphant at the Kids' Choice Awards.

"Twilight" star Taylor Lautner picked up two orange, blimp-shaped trophies at Saturday's 23rd annual shenanigan-packed Nickelodeon spectacle inside UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. Lautner snared the favorite actor honor for his "New Moon" role as hunky werewolf Jacob Black as well as the inaugural

cutest couple award with his "Twilight" co-star Kristin Stewart.

"I have to admit I have always dreamt of winning one of these orange blimps," said Lautner.

The fan-favorite ceremony's host, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" actor-comedian Kevin James, kicked off the show by performing a hip-hop dance routine as Adam Sandler serenaded him from above while dressed as an angel and fountains of green slime

spontaneously gushed on the first few rows of the audience. James said more than 115 million votes were received this year.

Katy Perry, wearing a bright blue wig and skintight flowery dress, was blasted with slime when presenting the favorite movie actress trophy to Miley Cyrus. The gooey "I Kissed a Girl" singer chased the "Hannah Montana" actress around the stage, but co-presenter Jonah Hill grabbed Perry before she could embrace the 17-year-old singer-actress with a slimy hug. "I can't see anything," complained Perry.

"Why does it taste like boogers?"

Other favorites included "Alvin and The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" for movie, "Up" for animated movie, Jim Carrey for voice from an animated movie for "A Christmas Carol," "Mario Kart" for video game, "iCarly" for TV show, "American Idol" for reality show, "SpongeBob SquarePants" for cartoon, Dylan Sprouse for TV actor and Selena Gomez for TV actress.

A frail Dennis Hopper gets Hollywood star



Actor Dennis Hopper holds his plaque, accompanied by his daughter Galen, at a ceremony where he was honored with a star on the Walk of Fame in Hollywood, California March 26, 2010.

REUTERS/Mario Anzuoni

By **SANDY COHEN**,

AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES—A bandaged and frail Dennis Hopper was surrounded by friends, family and colleagues Friday as he was honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

The 73-year-old actor and

filmmaker, who is battling prostate cancer, appeared gaunt and was helped to the stage by a friend. Hopper explained that bandages on his right arm and eye were the result of a fall Thursday outside his home. The two-time Oscar nominee, who has appeared in more than 100 films, said he came to Hollywood from his native Kansas at 18, "so that was my college." "Everything I've learned, I've learned from Hollywood," he said. "This has been my home and my schooling." As Hopper was speaking, a Hollywood tour bus passed slowly by the sidewalk ceremony and the tour guide said over the loudspeaker, "We love you Dennis." Jack Nicholson, Viggo Mortensen, David Lynch and Dwight Yoakam were among the luminaries on hand to honor their friend and colleague. □

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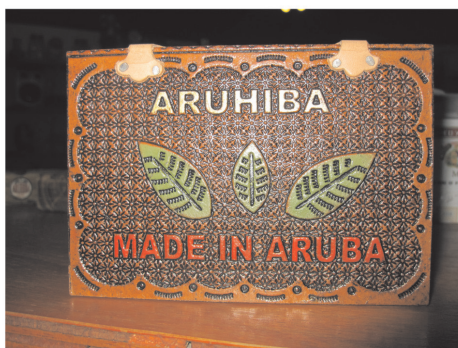
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Chairman of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Li Shufu (L), Swedish Minister for Enterprise and Energy Maud Olofsson (C) and Volvo Cars Chief Executive Stephen Odell stand next to a Volvo S60 car at the Volvo plant and headquarters in Torslanda, Gothenburg March 28, 2010.

REUTERS/Bjorn Larsson Rosvall/Scanpix

Geely to buy Volvo from Ford for \$1.8 billion

By LOUISE NORDSTROM,
Associated Press Writer

STOCKHOLM – Zhejiang Geely Holding Group signed a binding deal Sunday to buy Ford Motor Co.'s Volvo Cars unit for \$1.8 billion, representing a coup for the independent Chinese automaker which is aiming to expand in Europe.

The stock purchase agreement is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to be completed in the third quarter, representatives of the two automakers said as they presented the deal at a news conference at Volvo Cars headquarters in Goteborg, on Sweden's west coast.

The agreement was signed by Geely's chairman, Li Shufu and Ford Chief Financial Officer Lewis Booth, and witnessed by Li Yizhong, the Chinese minister of industry and information technology, as well as Swedish Minister for Enterprise and Energy Maud Olofsson.

The transaction will be made through a \$200 million note, while the remainder will be paid out in cash, Booth said at the Webcast news conference. "We think it's a fair price for a good business, and yes, we're happy with the deal we've achieved with Geely," he said, adding that his company believes that, under Geely, "Volvo can continue to build its business and return to profitability."

The deal also covers further agreements on intellectual property rights, supply, and research and development arrangements between Volvo Cars, Geely and Ford.

Li, whose comments were translated by an interpreter, described the deal as "a milestone" for both Geely and Volvo, adding his group will make a Volvo CEO public "in due course."

In a statement, Geely said it has secured all the financing necessary to complete the deal, as well as "significant working capital facilities to fund Volvo Cars' ongoing business."

Geely said it aims to keep Volvo's existing manufacturing facilities in Sweden and Belgium, but that it will also explore manufacturing opportunities in China.

"China, the largest car market in the world, will become Volvo's second home market. Volvo will be uniquely positioned as a world-leading premium brand, tapping into the opportunities in the fast-growing China market," Li said. □

Greece bailout: What's the future of the euro?

London – Faced with the gravest crisis yet in the history of the decade-old euro, European Union leaders met in Brussels last week to thrash out how to protect the currency's Achilles' heel: Greece.

By summit's end, the 15 eurozone countries (other than Greece) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had agreed to a package of loans that may head off a crisis for now. While no figures were announced formally for the Greece bailout, officials said the amount available could total €22 billion (\$29 billion). The money would be made available if Greece ends up facing default. The promise of availability will now, the country's involved hope, act as a buffer for market confidence in Greece and make it easier for the country to raise money on the open market.

Despite the agreement, Greece's debt, far larger than eurozone rules allow, is likely to remain a source of anxiety for the currency for some time.

Why are the woes of the Greek economy so linked to the health of the euro? Greece has long lived beyond its means while concealing a ballooning deficit. Greece must refinance much of its €300 billion (\$419 billion) debt by the end of May or risk default. A default would blow a hole in the credibility of the eurozone. "If we created the euro, we cannot let a country fall that is in the eurozone. Otherwise, there was no point in creating the euro," warned French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

But the rules of the euro prohibit bailouts of the kind Greece may yet need. EU leaders sought last week to craft a bailout by another name that would circumvent those rules through provision of bilateral loans.

Why has the possibility of an intervention by the IMF been raised? The eurozone's dominant member, Germany, had stubbornly refused to endorse a Greek rescue package, insisting that Greece must get its own house in order through austerity measures. Berlin, seeking to limit its own responsibility for Greece's problems, has argued for IMF involvement despite misgivings by France.

Germany's chancellor, Angela Merkel, said March 15 that European governments should only help Greece when it is "at the brink of bankruptcy, which it luckily is not at the moment." If aid was required, "the IMF is a topic we need to look at," she insisted.

IMF involvement may be positive for Greece, since it's likely to lend at lower interest rates than the European powers. Despite Greek promises to cut government spending to reduce a budget deficit of 12.7 percent of gross domestic product (GDP), a backlash from Greek unions has raised questions over follow-through.

Why is Germany so reluctant to lead a bailout of Greece? After years of saving, increasing productivity, and debt control, Germany is leery of helping a country that has done exactly the opposite. Almost one-third of Germans believe Greece should be asked to leave the eurozone, while some 40 percent think Europe's biggest economy would be better off outside the single currency, according to a Financial Times poll. Some experts believe that Germany has been looking for a way of kicking states such as Greece and Spain out of the 16-member euro club to create a new bloc more in tune with the values of the old deutsche mark.

Capturing the German mood, Chancellor Merkel said, "countries which cheat in their public finances should help themselves," in an interview carried by Der Spiegel.

How much danger is there of 'contagion' from Greece spreading elsewhere in Europe? Much hinges on how Greece weathers the next few weeks, but the biggest worry is over the other debt-laden "PIIGS," an acronym that includes Portugal, Italy, Ireland, and Spain.

Their circumstances vary. Stringent austerity measures unveiled by Ireland have convinced many economists about its prospects for returning to growth, despite concerns that spending cuts and tax hikes will suck demand out of the economy and prolong Ireland's slump.

The eurozone's fourth-largest economy, Spain, is another matter. Spanish unemployment is more than 20 percent, and the government deficit is around 9 percent of GDP. Spain is expected to take on more debt with bond issues.

"Spain is going to pose a big problem. It is in all sorts of trouble about how it will increase growth. It lost a great deal of competitiveness, and costs have gone up," says Simon Tilford, an economist at the Centre for European Reform, a think tank in London.

"Any economy regarded as having poor growth prospects is going to struggle to borrow at affordable levels."

Economists fear a Greek-style crisis in Spain would have a more devastating impact on the euro, while it remains unclear if other states would step in to help.

What are likely to be the long-term consequences of the crisis? Some predict a growing clamor – particularly from Paris and Berlin – for more mutual scrutiny of member states' budgets and perhaps more oversight by the European Commission, the EU's executive entity. That would further alienate "euroskeptic" opponents of deeper European integration, such as British Conservatives hoping to take over the reins in Britain, currently one of 11 EU states that have not adopted the euro. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

Els loses ground, but not lead

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Ernie Els held a two-shot lead over Kevin Na when the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational was suspended by thunderstorms at Bay Hill on Sunday.

Els had a five-shot lead with six holes to play and looked to be cruising toward his second straight victory until hitting into the water for a double bogey on the 13th and into the sand for a bogey on the next hole.

He was at 11-under par and on the 15th hole. Na was at 9 under and on the front of the 15th green in two, 80 feet from the hole. The group another shot back included Ben Curtis and Chris Couch, who were playing with Els; and Retief Goosen, who was on the 18th tee.

The round is to resume Monday morning after



PGA rules official Slugger White, front, gives Ernie Els, left, Ben Curtis, rear center, and caddie Andy Sutton, right, a ride to the clubhouse after play was halted due to approaching thunderstorms during the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational golf tournament at Bay Hill in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

thunderstorms soaked the golf course for three hours.

"I was playing well and Ernie looked like he was struggling,"

Na said. "Probably good for Ernie that they called it so he can clear his head a little bit. For me, I need to make birdies

to catch Ernie."

Els went two years without winning, and was poised to only wait two weeks this time. He ended the longest drought of his career at Doral with a four-shot victory, and is trying to become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2001 to win twice on the Florida swing.

He started the final round with a one-shot lead and quickly seized control with a 12-foot birdie putt on the fifth, then reached the fringe in two on the par-5 sixth for a simple birdie.

The 40-year-old South African appeared to be bothered on the eighth hole when he was about to hit a difficult shot into the wind and over the water, only to back off when he heard Couch hit out of turn. Els then went into a bunker and made bogey, and he drove into the right rough on No. 9 and had to play short of the green. □

Clancy win's Britain's third gold at track worlds

BALLERUP, Denmark (AP) — Edward Clancy won the men's omnium in one of the final races of the track cycling world championships on Sunday to move Britain into second place in the gold medals table. Clancy edged last year's winner, Leigh Howard from Australia, into second place and put 19-year-old Taylor Phinney from United States into third.

The five-day competition ended with Australia picking up six gold medals, Britain three and France and the United States two each.

The omnium consists of five events — a 200-meter flying start time trial, a 5K scratch race, a 3K individual pursuit, a 15K points race and a 1K time trial.

The placing a rider achieves in each event is converted to points, and the rider with the fewest points at the end of the competition wins.

Clancy clinched the gold in the 1-kilometer time trial. "That was hard. It's such a tough event but winning gold really helps," he said.

In the women's point race final, Canada's Tara Whitten secured her second gold, earning 36 points to beat second-place Lauren Ellis of New Zealand by three points. Tatsiana Sharakova from Belarus took the bronze.

Whitten also won the omnium event on Saturday, and said she was surprised to get a second gold. "I didn't think I had anything left after winning the women's omnium yesterday so I'm thrilled," she said.

In the women's keirin final, Simona Krupeckaite won Lithuania's first gold of the tournament, beating Britain's Victoria Pendleton by a whisker. Olga Panarina from Belarus picked up the bronze.

This is Krupeckaite's second medal after winning the silver in the women's 500 time trial earlier in the week.

In the final event of the competition, the men's sprint, Gregory Bauge retained his title to secure another gold for France, beating Australia's Shane Perkins. Third place went to fellow Frenchman Kevin Sireau. □



Gregory Bauge of France reacts after winning the Men's Sprint at the World Track Cycling Championships in the Ballerup Arena, Copenhagen, Denmark, Sunday, March, 28, 2010. Bauge defeated Shane Perkins of Australia in the gold medal race.

Associated Press

Ginobili's 28 points lead Spurs past Celtics

By JIMMY GOLEN

AP Sports Writer

BOSTON — Manu Ginobili scored 28 points, and Richard Jefferson had 16 points and 11 rebounds to lead the San Antonio Spurs to a 94-73 victory over the Boston Celtics on Sunday night.

The Spurs beat the Cleveland Cavaliers and Celtics in consecutive games, and next go to New Jersey to play the nine-win Nets on Monday.

Tim Duncan had eight points and nine rebounds, and DeJuan Blair added seven points and 11 boards for the Spurs, who have won 12 of 16 to move into a three-way tie with Portland and Oklahoma City for sixth place in the Western Conference.

Paul Pierce scored 18 points, and Kevin Garnett had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Boston. It was the Celtics' lowest point total of the season, their worst home loss of the year and their third loss by 20 or more since Feb. 25.

Boston had won six of its last seven, and seven of eight at home, apparently reversing a season-long slide that led to concerns that the 2008 NBA champions had aged quickly. The Celtics trailed just 44-43 at midgame, but the Spurs scored the first 12 points of the second half and led by as many as 17 in the third quarter. With seven minutes left in the game, the home crowd was booing the Celtics — an unusually common occurrence lately — and with five minutes left the building was mostly empty. Celtics coach Doc Rivers emptied his bench with four minutes to play, and so did San Antonio's Gregg Popovich.

Since moving into the starting lineup to replace Tony Parker, who missed his 12th straight game with a broken hand, Ginobili has averaged 24 points. □

MOTORSPORTS

Rain postpones Martinsville

By HANK KURZ Jr.,
AP Sports Writer
MARTINSVILLE, Va. — NASCAR's bad weather luck at Martinsville Speedway reared its head again Sunday as rain forced the postponed of the Sprint Cup race until Monday at noon. It is the second year in a row that rain pushed an event into the work week at the track in southwest Virginia. Last spring, the

truck series event had to be run on Monday. Rain also has washed out Sprint Cup qualifying for the past three spring races, putting points leader Kevin Harvick on the pole for the race. Harvick will be seeking a weekend sweep after dominating the truck race that was run in sunshine and ideal conditions Saturday. Many drivers traded their ball caps for knit caps and

wore heavy coats for driver introductions Sunday, which were conducted under heavy cloud cover and in a steady rain. "It stinks for the fans and all the teams, but the fortunate thing is we've got an off week coming up, so it's not like this is going to put everybody way behind," said A.J. Allmendinger, who will start 21st. NASCAR's premier series is taking its traditional break of the season for Easter next weekend. The Monday race will be the first in the Sprint Cup Series since last August at Watkins Glen, N.Y. It will be the first Cup race on a Monday in Martinsville since the fall of 2001. The absence of lights for



Covered Sprint Cup cars sit on pit row during a rain delay before the Goody's 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup auto race at the Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va., Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

night racing at the 0.526-mile oval meant the window for racing was already small considering the time it would take to dry the track if the rain stopped. NASCAR does not allow a race to start unless it's feasible for the entire event to be run, and races at Martinsville take up to 4 hours to complete. The call to postpone was

made about 90 minutes after the scheduled 1 p.m. start. The postponement also will push back Denny Hamlin's plans to have arthroscopic surgery on Monday to repair a torn anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee. He still hopes to have the procedure this week so he'll have time to recover before the next race on April 10. □

Seo wins Kia Classic for first LPGA Tour title

By BERNIE WILSON

AP Sports Writer

CARLSBAD, Calif. — Hee Kyung Seo ran away with the inaugural Kia Classic for her first LPGA Tour title Sunday, shooting a 2-under 70 for a six-stroke victory in a final round marked by Michelle Wie's latest rules gaffe. Seo, who is not a member of the LPGA Tour, received one of the three sponsor's exemptions to get into the tournament. The 23-year-old Seo, an 11-time on the Korean LPGA Tour, can chose to become an LPGA Tour member.

After opening with a 70 at La Costa, Seo took the lead with a second-round 67 and had a 69 on Saturday en route to a 12-under 276 total. South Koreans swept the top



Hee Kyung Seo, of South Korea, holds up the trophy after winning the LPGA Kia Classic golf tournament at La Costa in Carlsbad, Calif. Sunday, March 28, 2010.

Associated Press

four spots, with Inbee Park (65) finishing second, and Jiyai Shin (70) and Jee Young Lee (70) tying for third at 5 under. □

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Nadal beats Nalbandian, Roddick wins at Key Biscayne



Rafael Nadal, of Spain, celebrates after defeating David Nalbandian, of Argentina, 6-7 (8), 6-2, 6-2 during the Sony Ericsson Open tennis tournament Sunday, March 28, 2010, in Key Biscayne, Fla.

Associated Press

STEVEN WINE

AP Sports Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) — Rafael Nadal remained on course for a showdown against No. 1-ranked Roger Federer with a 6-7 (8), 6-2, 6-2 third-round win over dangerous wild card entry David Nalbandian at the Sony Ericsson Open on Sunday.

It has been 10 months since Nadal won a tournament, but he showed some of his old championship swagger by rallying past Nalbandian. Nadal and Federer haven't played against each other since May in Madrid, but their paths to the final became easier when No. 2 Novak Djokovic and No. 3 Andy Murray lost their opening matches.

"It doesn't affect me a lot that Murray or Djokovic are out if I lose today," fourth-seeded Nadal said.

As for who he might play next Sunday: "If I am in the final, I don't care."

A potential semifinal opponent is No. 6 Andy Roddick, who reached the final 16 by beating Sergiy Stakhovsky in 55 minutes, 6-2, 6-1.

Nadal will next face fellow Spaniard David Ferrer, who beat Ivo Karlovic 7-6 (5), 6-3. Olivier Rochus, who upset Djokovic in the second round, lost to No. 27 Thomaz Bellucci 6-3, 6-4.

Advancing to the women's fourth round were Belgian pair Justine Henin and Kim Clijsters. They could meet in the semifinals. Second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki and defending champion Victoria Azarenka also won.

In the early going against Nalbandian, it looked as though Nadal might have the coming week off. The Argentine, a former top-five player mounting a comeback from hip surgery, more than held his own in long baseline rallies and often found the open court with his backhand. It was no fluke — Nalbandian has beaten 16-time Grand Slam champion Federer eight times. "Against a player with this talent, you are always a little bit scared," Nadal said. As the opening set passed the one-hour mark, Nadal endured several wobbly moments, most notably when he double-faulted with a serve that missed by two meters. "Amazing," Nadal said.

That made the score 5-all in the tiebreaker. Nadal regrouped to reach set point, then let it slip away and lost the final three points of the set.

But after dropping serve early in the match when he double-faulted on break point, Nadal held his final 11 service games. Nalbandian began pressing to

finish rallies, losing two in a row when he tried drop shots, and his errors mounted.

"I felt he was a little bit more tired than me," Nadal said. "He started to have more mistakes, and was a little bit easier for me to play."

Nadal, hampered by knee trouble in recent months, has gone without a title in his past 12 tournaments. But with the clay-court season approaching, the four-time French Open champion is encouraged about the direction of his game.

He reached the semifinals at Indian Wells this month before losing to Ivan Ljubicic, and now he's trying to win his first title at Key Biscayne, where he was runner-up in 2005 and 2008.

"I'm very happy how I am doing in this American hardcourt season," Nadal said. "Every match right now I want to be really important for me, and every victory gives me confidence."

The unseeded Henin, mounting a comeback after a 20-month retirement, beat No. 26 Dominika Cibulkova 6-4, 6-4. Clijsters, seeded 14th, swept the first nine games and needed only 51 minutes to beat No. 17 Shahar Peer 6-0, 6-1.

Wozniacki, hampered by a viral illness and dizziness, rallied to beat No. 32 Maria Kirilenko 1-6, 6-1, 6-4. Five games into the match, Wozniacki required treatment from a trainer, who checked her blood pressure before the match resumed.

"I just thought, 'OK, I don't have anything to lose,'" Wozniacki said. "I just tried to go out there and fight for every point. The third set I started to feel better."

The No. 4-seeded Azarenka beat Lucie Safarova 6-4, 6-2. □

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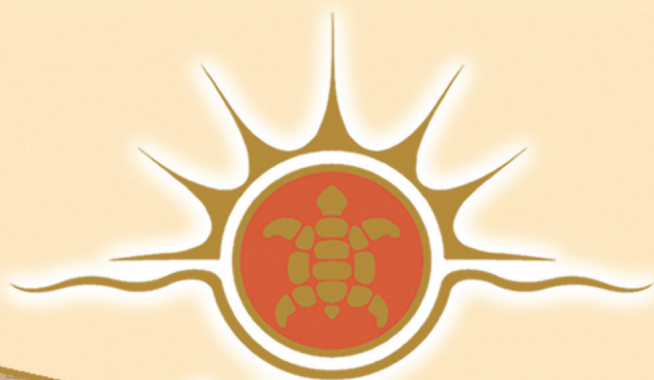
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Desperate Flames dominate NHL-leading Caps 5-3

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Well, that was quite a 24-hour swing. One day after the Calgary Flames looked done for the season, they went out and dominated the league's top team.

Having reached the desperation point in their bid to make the playoffs, the Flames scored four goals in the first period Sunday and beat the Washington Capitals 5-3.

Captain Jarome Iginla had said the Flames needed to "run the table" to get into the postseason after a 5-0 loss at Boston on Saturday. He and his teammates responded by salvaging a three-game road trip that began with two losses.

"We played with the effort that we're supposed to," defenseman Robyn Regehr said, "and we have to do that for the rest of the year."

The win moved Calgary within four points of eighth-place Colorado and within five of seventh-place Los Angeles in the Western Conference, pending the result of Colorado's game later Sunday.

Ales Kotalik, Ian White, Jay Bouwmeester, Niklas Hagman

and Rene Bourque scored for the Flames. Miikka Kiprusoff, who was pulled in the third period of the loss to the Bruins, made 31 saves against the Capitals as Calgary won in Washington for the first time in 11 years.

"We're all talking about that we want to be in the playoffs," Iginla said. "But we've got to go earn it and earn a chance. Now we're in position where we're just trying to earn a chance and see what other teams do."

Alex Ovechkin got his 46th goal for Washington and also had an assist to reach the 100-point mark for the fourth time in his five-year career. David Steckel and Mathieu Perreault also scored for the Capitals, who lost at home in regulation for only the fifth time in 36 games this season.

"We didn't have any energy," Washington coach Bruce Boudreau said. "It looked like we were skating in quicksand. Their sense of urgency was so tremendous.

They'd been embarrassed in Boston. We didn't meet their push."

Washington's Jose Theodore was pulled at 10:34 of the first period after allowing three goals on nine shots, but his franchise-record 19-game

Calgary Flames right wing Ales Kotalik (26), of the Czech Republic, scores a goal against Washington Capitals goalie Jose Theodore (60) during the first period of an NHL hockey game Sunday, March 28, 2010, in Washington.

Associated Press

streak without a regulation loss (17-0-2) remains intact because the Capitals later scored three goals. That made Semyon Varlamov, who gave up the fourth goal, the goalie of record.

"For the first time in a long time," Boudreau said, "it looked like Theo was struggling a little bit."

The Flames also spoiled a chance for the Capitals to clinch the top seed in the Eastern Conference for the first time in franchise history, but Washington claimed the No. 1 spot when New Jersey lost 5-1 at Philadelphia on Sunday night.

Three of the Flames' goals were carom shots off Capitals goaltenders, including the first two. Kotalik stuffed in a rebound off Theodore's left leg just 2:35 into the game, and White put a rebound off Theodore's side as the goalie was falling on his back during the power play at the 8:28 mark. □



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AHATA's General Assembly is 'historic'



ORANJESTAD— “It is a new ball game and it is up to us to score a homerun.” That statement of the Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association President summed up the new era in the marketing of Aruba, referring to the creation of the Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund, a new public/private partnership just signed last week.

Nieuwmeijer made that comment during last weekend's General Assembly of AHATA held at the Hyatt Regency. Nieuwmeijer and his fellow executive board members Paul Gielen, Warren Stanley, Javier Wolter and Edgar Roeloffs and the rest of the board, as well as Aruba tourism executive considered the meeting a 'historic one,' as it marked the beginning of a new era. The Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund (ATMF) creates a fixed funding for an independent Aruba Tourism Authority. It is a new reality



that took decades of discussion, planning and even fall-outs. But now, all those discussions are a thing of the past and the focus at the moment is on combining the finest resources of both the private and public sectors to improve the tourism product of Aruba, in a manner unseen and unheard of in the Caribbean, according to the AHATA President.

Continued on Next Page





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AHATA's General Assembly is 'historic'

Continued from Page B1

This new development will bring changes for AHATA as well, and now the association will direct more attention to the membership service programs and continue to act as an advocate in the interest of broader issues, such as labor laws, taxation, safety and security, environmental and beach management matters.

AHATA needs to remain sharp in a still unstable economy, Nieuwmeijer pointed out. Even though the numbers for the latest high season indicate a slight improvement in arrivals and room

nights, the upcoming low season, particularly the summer months are still a major challenge. The fear is that the industry will have to cope with late bookings or no bookings at all. "It still shows that certain markets are weak."

This new reality means that the Aruban government needs to continue paying more attention toward the enhancement of the tourism product, the preservation of the regular and transient visitor and to bring those visitors to Aruba who can contribute to a better and sustained growth for the people on the island.



Minister pledges commitment for improvement.

As for Minister of Tourism Otmar Oduber, his philosophy is that 'Aruba that is great for living is also a great place to visit.' He is referring here to the three-day forum he held with stakeholders in the tourism industry, who were able to express their concerns. And his conclusion is that now is the time to improve the tourism product, with focus on education of all who are directly and indirectly involved with the industry. Only then can Aruba offer the visitor a unique experience when on the island.

"We all acknowledge that tourism will remain the main thrust behind our economy. I have, therefore, delineated a clear long-term vision titled 'Two Steps Ahead' which is that Aruba will provide a sustainable tourism product by offering a balance between economic growth, social infrastructure and natural resources with the wellbeing of the population and our visitor's experience as the central focus." Oduber noted that for Aruba, as is the case for most of the Caribbean, achieving sustainable development is even more complicated than the majority of large nations, because of limited space. Therefore, it is crucial to balance the carrying capacity of our destination and the need to achieve economic growth to meet the desires of present and future generations.



In order to maintain a competitive position within the marketplace, it is vital that the Destination Marketing Organization for Aruba (ATA) be streamlined and made agile to respond to any developments in the market as well as be enabled to operate in a timely manner without too many constraints which are currently created by complex financial and operational systems. ATA will have a functional and independent status by January first, 2011 and in the intermediary will institute the "Aruba Tourism Marketing Fund" (ATMF) where all room tax will flow into. For the first time, the Government will officially combine the room tax with the two percent AHATA Fee. The new tax of 9.5 percent will secure between 48 – 50 million florins for marketing activities compared to the current combined budgets of 34 million florins.

Incidentally, this legal mean entails that for first time RIU hotel, not an AHATA member, will contribute to a general marketing fund for Aruba. In addition, the government allocated 6.7 million dollars for additional marketing this year, also in order to launch Aruba's new global brand identity. "Our brand has high awareness, robust and positive word-of-mouth with exceptional visitor satisfaction rates. In 2010, the Country Brand Index ranked Aruba as the 2nd strongest Caribbean brand."

The Minister said a 'brand activation' process will follow on- and off-island to increase awareness of Aruba and ensure that we deliver on our brand promise. He considered it important to equal attention to the natural, indigenous, cultural and heritage assets supported by an adequate infrastructure as well as nurture the education and skill levels of human capital.

The 'Tourism Product Enhancement Fund' will help achieve that goal within the very near future. The Government

has already allocated three million florins to this fund and in cooperation and the Aruba Timeshare Association has committed additional sums. This fund will ensure continued upgrading of product in all areas, such as the Linear Park from the airport to the Arashi beach. Construction of the first phase will start in April, from the Surfside to the Wilhelmina Park. This will include the creation of pedestrian areas and bike paths amongst carefully sculpted indigenous landscaping. The Park will also connect all museums and historical attractions, exhibiting our vibrant culture.

Minister Oduber stressed the goal to protect and promote our natural resources, local heritage and products as these are vital to our current and future generations alike and a continuous commitment to become as eco-friendly as possible. Projects like the Wind Energy Park at Vader Piet, protection of the coastal areas, and preservation and maintenance of the 'Parke Nacional Arikok,' as well as strives to achieve Blue Flag certification later this year for three public beaches attest to that goal.

"My third goal is to maintain strong levels of service. Aruba is well known for its hospitality and service and we want to keep it that way.

We plan to accomplish this through awareness and certification programs for those working in the industry such as taxi and tour operators, and water sports," Oduber stated. "Cleanliness and beautification of attractions and the beaches also has my attention. I would like to go back to the basics and make our beaches pristine and beautiful once again." He stressed his commitment for Aruba will remain a leader in the Caribbean by providing wonderful experiences with opportunities created to discover the soul of the island, its nature, culture and hospitality. □

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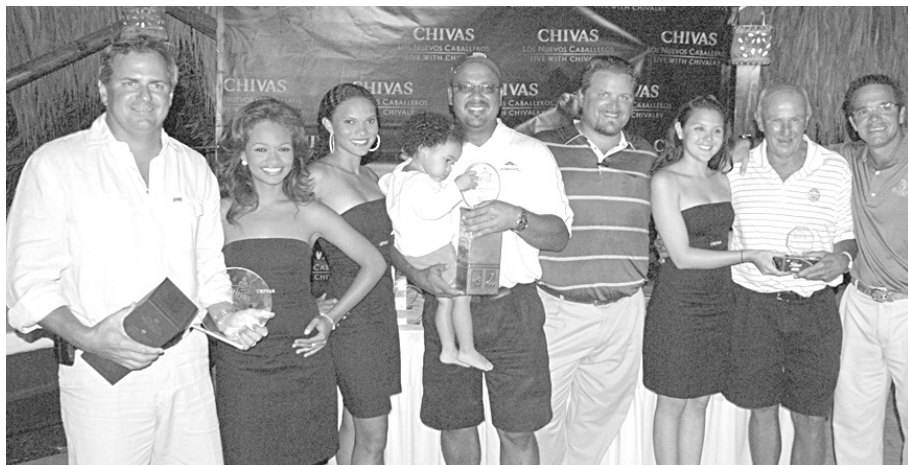
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At MooMba Beach

Copa Chivas Golf Tournament hosts awards banquet



PALM BEACH – This past Saturday, the Chivas Regal Golf Tournament unfolded at Tierra del Sol Resort Spa & Country Club, with the award ceremony taking place that night at MooMba Beach with an Indonesia rice table buffet. The tournament's 103 participants played an individual format in 3 flights

(A, B & C), resulting in three net winners: Cisco Quant, Ricky Quant & Michel van Leeuwen, respectively, who were awarded tickets to play in the Caribbean Chivas Club in the Dominican Republic as the grand prize. Each have been awarded airfare, accommodation and 3 rounds on one of the world's most renowned golf courses Punta

Espada, designed by Jack Nicklaus.

Other winners in the Saturday tournament included the 3 flights gross winners JR Quant, Willem van Ramshorst and Niels Stedehouder, who were presented with handsome engraved trophies and a bottle of Chivas Regal each.

Longest drive was won by Axl Ismael, while Shine Helmen came nearest to the pin.

Pictured here the award banquet at MooMba Beach, with sponsors Chivas Regal, a premium 12 year old Scotch distributed locally by Pepia Est NV, whose two directors, Michael v/d Berg and Herdy ten Lohuis served as tournament hosts.

The tournament was co-sponsors by Garage Centraal, Maduro Travel, awarding business upgrades and business class tickets to Miami on board Surinam Airways and Aruba Wine and Dine. Tierra de Sol Resort Spa & Country Club head golf pro Oliver Riding conducted his last tournament in Aruba, as he is moving on to the neighboring island of Curacao to head up the Hyatt golf operation there. He was assisted by golf pro Adam Williamson and Serge & Ludwig on behalf of Pepia Est. Golf teen prodigy Mathew Brinkman played very well placing third among C-flight net winners. □



Dia di Hymno & Bandera

La Cabana Celebrates Aruba's National Day



EAGLE BEACH -- Aruba's culture was on display for the whole week when La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club held a number of functions in honor of Aruba's Flag & Anthem Day. Among special activities Aruba -- Our Pride and Treasure, on the pool deck with guests and associates in



attendance, a lecture about Aruba's architectural heritage and a celebration at the Chit Chat café, entertained by the Maintenance musical combo. Aruban food, Aruban music and Aruban décor contributed to the unforgettable ambiance

at the employee cafeteria. The festive luncheon rounded up the delightful national experience at Aruba's most active resort, La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club, sharing Aruba's cultural bounty with its guests and associates. □



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Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort

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PALM BEACH -- Robert & Ann Parker and Tony & Jackie Mula, were honored at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort



the Minister of Tourism, Ricardo Croes and were presented with framed certificates of distinction. The small ceremony was arranged by Avril Culley and Shakira Lewis, Activities Coordinators, and included chilled champagne and delicious snacks. Both couples have owned time-share weeks at the resort for many years -- The Mulas even came to Aruba on their honeymoon -- and their loyalty to the island and its people was acknowledged by Ricardo who thanked them for making Aruba their home

away from home, and for recommending Aruba to so many other people. While Robert & Ann agree they truly relax here, read books and just enjoy down-time together, Tony & Jackie

enjoy dining out and taking advantage of all the resort has to offer which always exceed their expectations. Pictured here, memorable moments from the casual get together at Pure Beach



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Jeffrey Davis enjoys his birthday on Aruba



PALMBEACH—Jeffrey Davis celebrated his 60th birthday on Aruba surrounded by his loving family members, wife, children and grandchildren.

Nancy & Jeffrey Davis, from Massachusetts, have been coming to Aruba for



the past 13 years staying at the Marriott. In honor of the birthday boy, they got together on the beach at sunset for some happy family portraits starring the first couple, Jeffrey & Nancy, and members of the

younger generation, Jonathan & Rachel, from NY, Ilyse, Brayden & Ellie, from NJ. A vacation, they agree, is having nothing to do and all day to do it in, what better place than Aruba. □



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The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons. Reminiscent of a 1950s French café, the fully air-conditioned indoor dining room delights diners with its sparkling china, crisp linen, interesting bread baskets, and hand-painted tiles bordering the walls. A gracious staff, colossal desserts, and live jazz performed by Eddy Samson on piano add the perfect touches.

Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the intimate, lovely setting. Now patrons have another charming dining option at the French Steakhouse—a tropical alfresco courtyard featuring delicious

cuisine under the stars. Diners can choose from the restaurant's famed "Ooh-La-La" menu offerings, including creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry, and the pièce de résistance—South American and USDA beef specialties.

Among other popular appetizers, the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple-mango salsa and the Teriyaki-Glazed Seared Duck Breast served with garden greens and balsamic dressing are real crowd-pleasers. The French Onion Soup is true to the restaurant's roots while the Honey-Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

Seafood dishes range from the fresh Catch of the Day, prepared according to preference, to the amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon. The tequila and sweet-chili glaze lends

the jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!

Light eaters will find the Jerk-Curried Chicken Skewers and the Lemon-Herb Broiled Chicken very satisfying while meat-lovers should opt for the restaurant's famous South American Certified Beef Churrasco or a juicy USDA beef selection such as the Charcoal NY Sirloin Steak or the Grilled Filet Mignon. Hungrier patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-Course Menu featuring the run of the regular menu's highlights for just \$34.95 per person.

The French Steakhouse at Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa offers a truly unique dining experience—indoor or out—7 days a week from 5:30 PM to 11 PM. For more information, please visit <http://www.manchebo.com/steakhouse/>

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents beach cuisine

Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of beach cuisine. Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a sun-splashed menu on the oceanfront terrace, raising the restaurant to must-try status. Inspired by American, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek, and Mediterranean kitchens, the menu lists favorite international dishes all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

Patrons can choose from a variety of tasty starters, like Wings on Fire and the Fiesta Snack Platter. Pega Pega's Sun-Sational Salads—including the Thai Chicken Salad and the Caribbean



Fruit Symphony—provide a light lunch alternative. From the sandwich board come the Cuban-Pressed Chicken Sandwich, the Grilled Grouper Reuben Sandwich, the Cudarebo Fish Taco, and the Philly Steak Sandwich. Mid-day platters also include vegetarian options and a variety of oversized beef burgers.

Pega Pega's tropical & frozen cocktail list leaves nothing

out. A wide range of frosty beverages—from daiquiris, coladas, margaritas, and fruit or ice-cream smoothies to specialty blends like the Yellow Bird, Sex on the Beach, and the Cabuya—pretty much guarantees the perfect refreshing addition to lunch. A daily happy hour featuring live music is a great way to watch the sunset and kick off the evening.

Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar is open on fabulous Eagle Beach every day from noon to 5 PM for lunch and from 11 AM to 11 PM for drinks. Patrons are cordially welcomed to enjoy the unrivaled views, caring service, and relaxed atmosphere of one of Aruba's oldest beach bars.



Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico



Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano, located at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa in the heart of the low-rise hotel area, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors at a reasonable price in a charming alfresco poolside setting.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico, a 3-course dinner featuring an appetizer, main course, and dessert for just \$19.95 per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between homemade soup and Caesar salad for the starter; between Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese, and any favorite pizza for the main course; and between tiramisu, cheesecake, and ice cream for the sweet finale.

Of course, the regular menu

continues to offer delicious antipasto and salads, like the Calamari Fritti and the Insalati Bistro; hearty Italian soups; fresh fish dishes, including Salmone Affogato in Bianco; pasta dishes, like the Tortellini alla Gorgonzola; pizzas; meat dishes, like the Fileto Di Bue alla Castellana; decadent desserts, such as the Cream-Filled Cannoli; flavorful coffees; and the finest Italian wines.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Shoco Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. The award is a national award of excellence and Aruba's top professional decoration in the hospitality industry.

Open 7 days a week for breakfast and dinner, Giorgio's makes authentic Italian cuisine a reality on Aruba. Patrons are cordially invited to bring a healthy appetite.

Shanthee celebrates Birthday at Texas de Brazil



PALM BEACH Shanthee celebrated her birthday in style at Aruba's most popular churascaria Texas de Brazil. The birthday girl together with her family and friends enjoyed a Brazilian style evening followed by presents and birthday cake. Shanthee and her party of more than 2 dozen people started with a forty item salad bar including appetizers, soup and side items. The enjoyed

an endless flow of 12 cuts of meat, including sizzling beef, lamb, pork, chicken and sausage complemented with the famous Brazilian cheese

bread. Congratulations to Shanthee from the management and staff of Texas de Brazil and Aruba Today. □



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Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!' Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

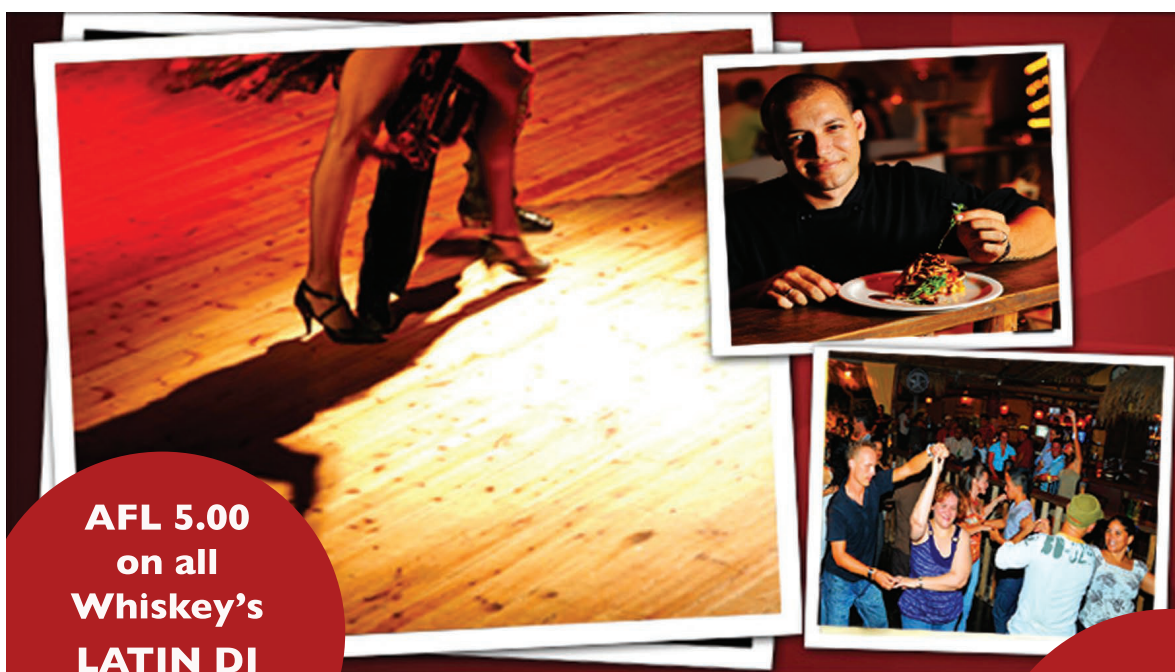
THE MUST-SEE SHOW - YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS IT! AROUND THE WORLD AND BACK, Adam Steinfeld: 'MAGIC LIVE!', from Monte Carlo, Hong Kong, Orlando, Miami Beach, Biloxi, Boston, San Juan, New York, Aruba to Vegas, it's the coolest show in town, taking up where Houdini left off."

MAGIC-GRANDILLUSION - COMEDY



IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions show
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld
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Eat Right: 18 Tips That Really Matter Pt. 2

An à la carte menu to simplify your diet, get healthy, save the earth — and save money



7. Learn to Preserve

Why preserve food? If you garden or buy seasonal produce in bulk, you can make your harvest last for months by learning age-old preservation methods.

Whether it's canning veggies, drying sunflower seeds, pickling cucumbers or making jams and jellies, there are simple techniques that can -- with a little investment of time -- make your dollar investment in a garden or a farm share really pay off.

Start with 100 Mile Diet canning tips, then move on to the National Center for Home Food Preservation, a free government-funded repository for science-based information about food preservation. It even includes a free, self-guided course for beginners.

Canning isn't the only technique our grandparents did way before anyone described it as being "green." For more ideas, see these 7 Lost Household Arts.

8. Compost

Why compost? Composting makes simple common sense. Why send nutrients to the landfill or incinerator, when you can transform them into compost that will nourish your vegetable or flower garden, or your indoor potted plants? You'll save on fertilizer costs for the yard or garden, and you make good use of all the food you buy -- even those parts you don't eat.

Composting can be as easy as setting aside some space in a yard that can be kept free of animals and piling up vegetable and fruit waste (along with things like coffee grinds, egg shells and certain other foods and compostable packaging), as well as grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste. To speed up the decomposition process, manage the ratio of wastes, and turn the compost pile. Look for specific tips on the Web, where sites like howtocompost.org spell it out in detail.

And don't think composting is just for people living with an acre of land. Kitchen compost bins and worm bins are available for urban composting, too. If you're lucky, your city or community garden may even accept kitchen wastes for composting.

9. Buy USDA Organic Foods

Why buy organic? Modern agriculture can be environmentally destructive by causing soil erosion, polluting water with fertilizers and chemical pesticides and, potentially, by altering the gene pool of natural ecosystems. Organic foods are produced without synthetic growth hormones, genetically engineered organisms, antibiotics, chemical fertilizers or manmade chemical pesticides.

Organic growing methods were developed by those who realized the longterm health of the soil -- and its ability to continue to provide nutrients needed to grow food -- depends on more than adding fossil fuel-based fertilizers, killing pests with toxic chemicals and planting genetically modified seeds that can withstand pesticide treatments.

The Department of Agriculture's organic certification is one of the most trustworthy labels available, and a handful of other organic labels are also meaningful, according to Consumers Union. (Note that, unless it says it's 100% organic, it probably isn't -- quite; certain ingredients that aren't available in organic forms are allowed in foods labeled "organic.")

When it comes to personal health, eating organic foods sometimes means -- according to some research -- eating a more nutritious vegetable, and it also means avoiding any pesticide residue (see the Dirty Dozen fruits and veggies that tend to have the most pesticide residue, and the Clean 15 that tend not to be tainted).

Organic produce sometimes

comes at a premium price. Here are 5 simple tips to help you save on organic food, or any food, really.

Take organic a step further and look for organic beers, organic wines or biodynamic wines.

10. Learn the Labels That Have Integrity

Why do it? Labels are supposed to make our lives easier, by pointing out those foods made in ways that meet our ethical and environmental standards. Unfortunately, there are too many labels, claiming too many things -- and while some are highly meaningful, some are downright deceiving.

In addition to USDA organic, here are some good labels to look for:

Fair Trade Certified ensures that farmers and farm workers in developing nations receive a fair price for their product and work in fair democratic conditions; and that they are likely to be small-scale farms using sustainable farming methods. Shade Grown or Bird Friendly coffee, and Rainforest Alliance certified coffee, orange juice, chocolate and bananas all ensure that farming practices maintain rainforest health and native biodiversity, including migratory songbirds that spend summers in the North Americans and winters in the south. Demeter Certified Biodynamic ensures that foods are grown biodynamically, which means without synthetic pesticides and fertilizers, without most animal by-products and without genetically altered seeds, among other requirements. Country of Origin Labels In 2009, the U.S. expanded country of origin labeling (COOL) so that you can be more aware of who's producing your food. With more than 400,000 facilities in 170 countries producing food sold in the U.S., that can be important



information. (Remember the Chinese melamine scares of 2007 and 2008?)

11. Check the Labels on Meat and Dairy Carefully

Why look for labels on meat and dairy carefully? As we already explained, the decision to eat meat, and how much, is one of the biggest choices you make in your diet. Whether it's because of a sense of affinity for other living breathing animals, out of knowledge of the environmental impact that raising livestock and other animals has, it's worth it to choose your meat and dairy products carefully.

Some terms on labels mean virtually nothing -- or at least nothing verifiable. Phrases like "antibiotic free," "free range," "no chemicals," "no additives," "natural" or even "fresh" are deemed not meaningful by Consumer Union's very useful Eco-labels center (at greenerchoices.org for guides for meat and dairy).

The same organic labels that apply to other foods apply here. USDA organic is trustworthy, as are a handful of others. Other labels with integrity to look for include "Certified Humane Raised," and "Grass fed" -- if accompanied by USDA certification.

12. Choose Fish Carefully

Why choose fish carefully? First, fish can be highly contaminated with toxic chemicals like mercury and PCBs, so you want to avoid eating tainted species, particularly if you are pregnant, may get pregnant, are nursing, or planning to serve the meal to a child. (Government warnings have shifted and sometimes one agency's recommendations have contradicted those of another agency, or of respected advocacy groups.) Second, the world's stocks of commercial fish are, in many cases, being fished

at unsustainable rates that are leading to collapsing populations. That said, fish are a healthy meat, so many people want to make fish a part of their diets.

A great source of information about fish comes from the Environmental Defense Fund's Seafood Selector, which identifies which fish are both caught sustainably and are low in contaminants -- and which are not. It has a searchable database of fish, and also provides a handy wallet-sized card to take to the fish market.

According to Consumer's Union, no fish label is highly meaningful, but each of the following will tell you something:

Dolphin Safe in most cases certifies that tuna is caught without killing dolphins, but only applies to the primary fishing grounds in the eastern Pacific, not to tuna caught elsewhere. FishWise is very useful for choosing sustainably caught fish and "somewhat meaningful" for determining contaminant levels. Marine Stewardship Council is "somewhat meaningful"; while it provides consumers information about which fish are sustainably harvested, the standards used to determine what is "sustainable" can be inconsistent. Safe Harbor is "somewhat meaningful" for choosing fish that are less contaminated (below median level) with mercury, but is not useful for comparing mercury levels between species. In other words, hypothetically, you may choose a Safe Harbor-labeled tuna that is less contaminated than other tuna, but it could be still more contaminated than an unlabeled swordfish. Seafood Safe is "somewhat meaningful" for choosing fish that are lower in two common contaminants, PCBs and mercury. The label relies on data from the tests of random samples of fish.

New Parliament, Cabinet installed



WILLEMSTAD--Calling the occasion an historic one, Antillean Governor Frits Goedgedrag officially installed on Friday what are supposed to be the last Antillean Parliament and Central Government in light of the constitutional changes scheduled to take effect on 10-10-10.

As a result, the term of the Cabinet De Jongh-Elhage II and the new legislature will

also be a short one of just over six months.

Goedgedrag reminded the Central Government administrators that agreeing on a new constitutional structure for the Netherlands Antilles had proved far from easy.

"There have been many obstacles along the way. Despite our best efforts, we have not yet been able to complete this process, but the new arrangements are nearly in

place. Under the Philipsburg Accord, the members of the cabinet who have just been sworn in undertake to make themselves redundant in the near future. Instead of constitutional issues, our attention must once again focus on the welfare of the people of the islands.

"With a view to continuity, nearly all the members of the first Emily de Jongh-Elhage Cabinet are returning in the second. I look forward to renewing our partnership.

"I would like to thank those who will not take office in the new government and congratulate Mrs. de Jongh-Elhage and her second cabinet, wishing you strength and wisdom in carrying out the responsibilities to which you have been called: dismantling the Netherlands Antilles, creating the new constitutional entities and above all serving



the interests of the people of the islands."

In his address to the members of Parliament, Goedgedrag emphasised that the term of this Antillean legislature would be brief, given the date planned for the constitutional changes.

"The Netherlands Antilles in its present form is as it were a legal entity in liquidation under your administration. Yet you have an important and

weighty task before you.

"Both in The Hague and here in Willemstad you will have to debate the legislation needed to introduce the new constitutional statuses for the islands. Moreover, until those arrangements are in place you have a duty of care to the population of the Netherlands Antilles. I wish you wisdom and every success in carrying out this important responsibility." □

Römer is expert at Parliament hearing

THE HAGUE--Former Antillean Prime Minister and Minister of Justice Susy Camelia-Römer is one of the experts invited for the hearing on justice in the Second Chamber next Wednesday.

Camelia-Römer is the only Antillean who appears on the list of five experts invited by the Dutch Parliament's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ to give their vision on the Kingdom Consensus Laws relating to justice before these laws are handled by the Second Chamber next month.

The other five experts are: Chairman Harm Brouwer of the Council of Attorneys General; Chairman M.A. Beuving of the Council of Chief Police Commissioners; and Detectives Chief H. Vissers and Police Chief Aad Meijboom, both of the police corps Rotterdam-Rijnmond. The latter police corps examined the Antillean police forces last year.

The experts will give their view on the proposed legislation of the Joint Court of Justice, the Public Prosecutor's Offices, and police organisation of countries Curaçao and St. Maarten and the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba, and the Council for the Maintenance of Law and Order.

A second hearing is scheduled for Wednesday afternoon. Six experts will give their view on the proposed amendment to the Kingdom Charter. Invited were Vice Chairman of the Council of State Herman Tjeenk Willink, Professor Parliamentary Democracy Joop van den Berg, Professor Caribbean History Gert Jan Oostindie, and three other experts - R. Hoekstra, H. Hoogers, and L. Rogier.

The hearings take place on the initiative of Member of Parliament Johan Remkes of the liberal democratic VVD party. □

Transitional agreement movement of persons BES islands approved

THE HAGUE--The Dutch Council of Ministers on Friday approved a proposal to establish a transitional arrangement that regulates the admission of Dutch citizens on the BES islands of Bonaire, St. Eustatius, and Saba. The arrangement protects the islands from an influx of Dutch citizens.

The proposal, presented by caretaker Minister of Justice Ernst Hirsch Ballin and caretaker State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten, arranged for the existing rules for the admission of Dutch citizens to remain in effect until the Kingdom Law that regulates the movement of persons is implemented on the BES islands.

The transitional arrangement was needed to prevent that a gap between the moment that the three islands become part of the Netherlands

as "public entities" and the implementation of the Movement of Persons Kingdom Law.

The Dutch Government considered it "undesirable" in this transitional arrangement, to implement unilaterally the Movement of Persons Kingdom Law for all Dutch citizens in the Kingdom in a limited part of the Kingdom, the BES islands.

In the absence of a transitional arrangement, in principle, all Dutch citizens would have had free admission to the BES islands, whereas the other countries, including the future countries Curaçao and St. Maarten, would not have that free access.

This, argued the Dutch Kingdom Council of Ministers, would not be in agreement with the intended reciprocity in a Movement of Person Kingdom Law. It was

for this reason that The Hague opted to maintain the existing rules for the time being.

The point of departure of the Persons Movement Kingdom Law is to create a uniform regime that regulates free access of all Dutch citizens with as few restrictive conditions as possible. The law would be applicable to all countries in the Kingdom.

The transitional arrangement will be sent to the Second Chamber in the form of an amendment to the Admittance and Expulsion Law BES, the LTU BES. This law proposal has already been sent to the Second Chamber where the initial handling will take place on April 15.

LTU BES regulates the admission of foreigners to the BES islands, and after the addition of the transitional arrangement, the access of Dutch citizens to these islands □



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Ex ministro Santos lidera intención de votos a la presidencia en Colombia

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - El ex ministro de Defensa de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, es favorito para ganar las elecciones presidenciales de mayo, pero es probable que tenga que enfrentar en una segunda vuelta a la candidata del Partido Conservador, Noemí Sanín, reveló el domingo una encuesta.

Se trata del tercer sondeo que en los últimos cuatro días muestra la misma tendencia. Santos, candidato del Partido de la U, aspira a convertirse en el sucesor del presidente Álvaro Uribe quien quedó inhabilitado para buscar su segunda reelección inmediata después que la Corte Constitucional declaró ilegal un referendo que buscaba abrirle el camino para prolongar su Gobierno por cuatro años más.

Ante la imposibilidad de que Uribe continúe gobernando, los electores buscan dar continuidad a sus políticas de seguridad y de inversión con candidatos que prometen defenderlas, de acuerdo con analistas.

La encuesta de la firma Ipsos-



Foto de archivo: el candidato presidencial y ex ministro de Defensa de Colombia, Juan Manuel Santos, ofrece un discurso en Bogotá, mar 6 2010. REUTERS/Fredy Builes (COLOMBIA)

Napoleón Franco reveló que el ex ministro tiene una intención de voto de un 36 por ciento, seguido por Sanín, ex ministra de Relaciones Exteriores y candidata del Partido Conservador, con un 17 por ciento.

Santos y Sanín trabajaron como funcionarios del Gobierno de Uribe y se han

declarado herederos políticos de su gestión en medio de la campaña en la que prometen mantener las principales políticas del popular mandatario.

Los asesinatos, las masacres, los secuestros y los atentados en medio del conflicto interno han disminuido desde que Uribe fue elegido por primera

vez, en el 2002, con la promesa de derrotar militarmente a la guerrilla.

La inversión extranjera, principalmente en petróleo y minería aumentaron por la seguridad, lo que contribuyó a un buen desempeño de la economía del país sudamericano en los últimos años.

LOS OTROS CANDIDATOS

Aunque la mayoría de colombianos reconocen la gestión de Uribe, las encuestas muestran que actualmente están más preocupados por el desempleo, la pobreza y la cobertura de salud que por la seguridad.

En la encuesta de Ipsos-Napoleón Franco, el candidato del Partido Verde y ex alcalde de Bogotá, Antanas Mockus, alcanzó un 9 por ciento de la intención de voto, en el tercer lugar.

En cuarto lugar apareció el candidato de Cambio Radical Germán Vargas Lleras con un 8 por ciento, seguido por el del izquierdista Polo Democrático Alternativo, Gustavo Petro, con el 6 por ciento.

El ex alcalde de Medellín y candidato independiente Sergio Fajardo figuró en el sexto lugar con un 5 por ciento de la intención de voto, superando al candidato del Partido Liberal, Rafael Pardo con un 4 por ciento.

De acuerdo con la encuesta, que se realizó en 36 municipios de Colombia donde se entrevistaron 1.202 personas, ninguno de los candidatos obtendría los sufragios necesarios en las elecciones del 30 de mayo, por lo que debería llevarse a cabo una segunda vuelta entre los dos más votados, el 20 de junio. Las leyes electorales establecen que para que un candidato gane la presidencia en la primera vuelta debe obtener más de la mitad de los votos. El margen de error de la encuesta es de un 3,4 por ciento.

El mismo sondeo estableció que en una segunda vuelta Santos obtendría un 44 por ciento de los votos y Sanín un 30 por ciento. □

Despojan de inmunidad a parlamentario venezolano

CARACAS (AP) - La Asamblea Nacional venezolana, controlada por aliados políticos del presidente Hugo Chávez, despojó de inmunidad a un legislador de oposición acusado de insultar y golpear a una agente de policía durante un altercado.

La asamblea acordó el viernes por la noche despojar de su inmunidad a Wilmer Azuaje y permitir que lo juzgue la Corte Suprema.

Azuaje, un ex aliado del presidente Hugo Chávez, aseguró ante reporteros que es inocente y que las acusaciones en su contra tienen motivaciones políticas. El parlamentario, ha acusado a la familia del presidente de cometer actos de corrupción en su estado natal, Barinas, algo que los Chávez niegan.

“Yo no he cometido ningún delito”, dijo Azuaje, quien aseguró que el voto de la asamblea es inconstitucional. “¡No nos

vamos a arrodillar! ¡No estoy arrodillado!”.

En la votación del viernes por la noche, 105 legisladores apoyaron la medida en contra de Azuaje y seis se opusieron. El parlamentario sostiene que una mayoría de 112 votos, es decir dos tercios de los legisladores, era necesaria para retirarle la inmunidad.

Azuaje compareció ante el tribunal el sábado por la noche y dijo que lo liberaron bajo la condición de presentarse cada 20 días ante la ley mientras espera su juicio.

“Todos los venezolanos saben que a mi se me esta haciendo un juicio político, netamente político”

El Tribunal Supremo de Justicia de Venezuela pidió a la Asamblea Nacional decidir si procedía el retiro de la inmunidad de Azuaje _un paso inusitado y normalmente reservado en el pasado sólo a casos de delitos como corrupción. □

Sismo de magnitud 5,3 sacude costa norte de Perú

LIMA (AP) - Un sismo de magnitud 5,3 sacudió el sábado localidades de la costa norte de Perú, causando susto en la población pero sin que se reportaran daños materiales ni personales, informaron autoridades. Según información del servicio Geológicos de Estados Unidos, el movimiento telúrico se registró a las 20.08 hora local (0108 GMT) y tuvo una magnitud de 5,3.

El epicentro del sismo estuvo localizado a 85 kilómetros al sureste de la ciudad de Huarney, ubicada a 276 kilómetros al noreste de Lima, y se produjo a una profundidad de 40 kilómetros, según el Instituto Geofísico de Perú (IGP).

La dependencia indicó que el movimiento se sintió con una magnitud de entre 3 y 4 en las localidades vecinas de Huaraz, Chimbote, Huacho y Chimbote. □

Liberado soldado secuestrado por las FARC

VILLAVICENCIO, Colombia (AP) - Un soldado de 23 años en cautiverio desde hace casi un año, se abrazó el domingo a sus parientes tras ser liberado por las FARC.

Josué Daniel Calvo fue capturado por las Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) en abril del 2009 y en la jornada fue entregado por las guerrillas a una comisión humanitaria encabezada por la senadora Piedad Córdoba y del Comité Internacional de la Cruz Roja (CICR).

El soldado fue recogido en un punto de la selva no revelado, por razones de seguridad, y en un helicóptero militar de Brasil, país garante del operativo, trasladado a Villavicencio, en el departamento de Meta y a unos 75 kilómetros al suroeste de Bogotá.

A la 1:11pm (1811GMT) el helicóptero Super Cougar brasileño aterrizó en el aeropuerto de Villavicencio. Contrario a las versiones de las propias FARC, indicando que Calvo estaba muy enfermo y no podía caminar, el soldado descendió por su propio pie de la nave, donde fue recibido por su padre, Luis Alberto Calvo, su hermana Nubia, y todos se unieron en un largo abrazo. Aunque el CICR había previsto el uso de una silla de rueda, Calvo no la utilizó.

Calvo, vistiendo una camiseta azul claro, pantalones oscuros, zapatos deportivos negros, y con el cabello muy corto, caminó junto a sus familiares varios metros hasta el hangar de la terminal y no formuló declaraciones de inmediato.



Un delegado de Cruz Roja Internacional camina junto a pilotos brasileño en el aeropuerto de Villavicencio, Colombia, el domingo 28 de marzo de 2010, poco antes que se inicie la misión de entrega de dos rehenes de la guerrilla colombiana. (AP Photo/William Fernando Martínez)

Llevaba una larga vara a modo de bastón, y una botella

de agua mineral en sus manos y desde lejos saludó a la prensa tocándose el pecho

del lado del corazón.

Por su parte, Córdoba, entre una multitud de activistas del movimiento Colombianos y Colombianas por la Paz, que

promueven entre otras causas la liberación de rehenes; dijo que el soldado venía emocionado y que se había mareado en el vuelo.

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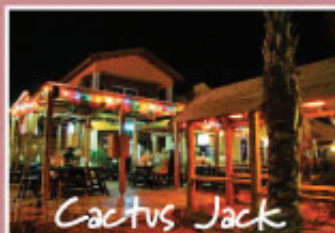


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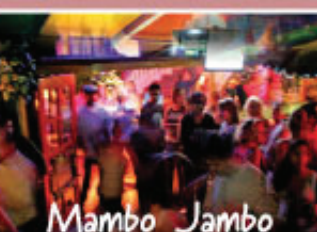
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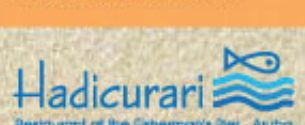
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